

"Ought to Pass New Draft"

SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 423

House of Representatives, Feb. 28, 1917.

*Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and one thousand
copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.*

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Brewster of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

RESOLVE Proposing an Amendment to Article Four (4)
Section Three (3) of the Constitution in Regard to Appor-
tionment of Representatives in Accordance with Population.

Resolved, two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that the
2 following amendment to the constitution of this state be
3 proposed for action of the legal voters, to wit—by striking
4 out in article four (4) section three (3) of the constitution,
5 the words "but no town shall ever be entitled to more than
6 seven representatives," so that said section as amended shall
7 read as follows:

'Sect. 3. Each town having fifteen hundred inhabitants
2 may elect one representative; each town having three thou-
3 sand seven hundred and fifty may elect two; each town hav-
4 ing six thousand seven hundred and fifty may elect three;
5 each town having ten thousand five hundred may elect four;
6 each town having fifteen thousand may elect five; each town
7 having twenty thousand two hundred and fifty may elect
8 six; each town having twenty-six thousand two hundred and
9 fifty may elect seven; and towns and plantations duly or-
10 ganized, not having fifteen hundred inhabitants, shall be
11 classed as conveniently as may be, into districts containing
12 that number, and so as not to divide towns; and each such
13 district may elect one representative; and when on this ap-
14 portionment the number of representatives shall be two hun-
15 dred, a different apportionment shall take place upon the
16 above principle; and in case the fifteen hundred shall be too
17 large or too small to apportion all the representatives to any
18 county, it shall be so increased or diminished as to give the
19 number of representatives according to the above rule and
20 proportion; and whenever any town or towns, plantation or
21 plantations not entitled to elect a representative shall deter-
22 mine against a classification with any other town or planta-
23 tion, the legislature may, at each apportionment of repre-
24 sentatives on the application of such town or plantation, au-
25 thorize it to elect a representative for such portion of time
26 and such periods, as shall be equal to its portion of repre-
27 sentation; and the right of representation so established, shall
28 not be altered until the next general apportionment.'

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of
2 towns, and the assessors of the several plantations in this
3 state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the in-
4 habitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to
5 meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and hold-
6 ing biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of
7 senators and representatives, on the second Monday in Sep-
8 tember following the passage of this resolve, to give in their
9 votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing reso-
10 lution, and the question shall be: "Shall the constitution be
11 amended as proposed by a resolution of the Legislature,
12 making representation in the House of Representatives more
13 nearly proportional to the population?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations
2 shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the
3 amendment expressing it by the word "Yes" upon their bal-
4 lots and those opposed to the amendment by the word "No"
5 upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, sorted,
6 counted, and declared in open ward, town and plantation
7 meetings, and returns made to the office of secretary of state
8 in the same manner as votes for governor and members of
9 the Legislature, and the governor and council shall count the
10 same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhab-
11 itants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment,
12 it shall thereupon become a part of the constitution, and
13 the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his
14 proclamation.